



A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ December 2005

December arrived and our favorite high school team was still playing football, a rather remarkable achievement to be in the Final Four in the State of Texas. Thanks to the Tigers win over rival Bryan, a special presentation at the December 15 Council meeting will find the "Brazos Boot" returning to College Station's City Hall. **Ernie Wentreck**, Mayor of Bryan, will be present that evening to deliver the prize to **Mayor Silvia**.

You can see all this and more on our website, with the addition of a streaming media service introduced in November. Thanks to the wonderful world of technology, programming formerly limited to cable audiences of CSTV Channel 19 can now be accessed on your computer monitor. An indexing system will access a searchable list of Council meetings, allowing the public to retrieve items using a simple keyword search feature. In addition to City meetings, you will find *City View*, *College Station On the Move*, *Tiger Football* and other video productions now accessible from the website (www.cstx.gov). I appreciate the many efforts of our Public Communications staff and employees of the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) to make all these new features possible.

As we near the end of the calendar year, we have the distinct honor of recognizing our employees. Not only

for service, but for outstanding achievement as well. The 2005 Employee Banquet provided an opportunity to introduce 116 employees with a combined total of 1190 years of service. Quite an accomplishment.

Nine employees were nominated for "2005 Employee of the Year" honors: **Brian Hilton**, *Emergency Management Coordinator, CMO*; **Dana Albrecht**, *Recreation Supervisor, PARD*; **Mike Hare**, *Communications Technician, OTIS*; **Mark Wiese**, *Shop Foreman, Public Works*; **Howard Putz**, *Light Equipment Operator, PARD*; **Bridgette George**, *Development Coordinator, P&D*; **Carol Arnold**, *Municipal Court Administrator, Fiscal Svcs.*; **Karl Goldapp**, *Environmental Compliance/Training Coordinator, CSU*; and **Marshall Wallace**, *Foreman, Public Works*.



Bridget George, a 15-year College Station employee with an infectious smile and ability to handle several tasks simultaneously, received the 2005 title and is pictured with Mayor Silvia.

With the New Year rapidly approaching, I would like to extend best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season to each of you. There is much to be thankful for in the College Station community.

Interim City Manager



Snow Forecast December 17 At College Station's Central Park

Cooler temperatures mark the turn of the seasons and bring to mind that the holidays are here. To young and old alike, December in College Station means *Christmas in the Park*. College Station Parks & Recreation proudly presents the 21st Annual *Christmas in the Park Celebration*.

Lighting crews have been hard at work for months designing and installing all of the old favorites as well as new lighted scenes that are sure to delight. Included in the new designs are yellow-lighted ribbons in honor of the men and women serving in the armed forces. Every lighted scene in the park is hand-made by Parks & Recreation staff.



The official lighting ceremony December 2 marked the beginning of the month-long event. **New this year is a snowfall slated December 17 that will begin falling at 6 p.m.**

Each year Central Park glows with more than half a million lights, creating beautiful holiday scenes from the swimming swans and animated steamboat to the famous Santa's Lane.

Lights shine brightly each night from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. throughout December, but for the best experience, visit on an Open House evening. These are Friday and Saturday nights (6 – 9 p.m.) during the first three weeks of December. At these times, Christmas in the Park visitors keep warm with hot cocoa and Christmas cookies, courtesy of Kroger, served by Santa's helpers. Kids can visit with Santa while mom and dad take a picture, or enjoy a ride on an old-fashioned hayride led by Christmas carolers. Life-sized puppets wander the park, happy to interact with children of all ages. Entertainment provided by local clubs, organizations, churches, and schools, provides seasonal ambiance. The 3rd Annual Baking Contest will be held December 10. All events are free.

Christmas in the Park has been generously sponsored since 1987 by Waltman & Grisham, Attorneys at Law.



Briefly speaking...

Updates Offered on Fire Stations 3, 5...

With design underway during the last year for **Fire Station 3**, plans are moving forward for construction on Barron Road to service the southern end of the City. A presentation and community meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. December 7 at the CSU training room on Graham Road to update citizens on the project. City personnel and project architects will be present to answer questions regarding construction and operation of the facility. Bids will be advertised in January 2006 and construction set to begin in April. Completion is anticipated in Spring 2007.

Construction of **Fire Station 5** on Greens Prairie Road is on hold and completion of the project turned over to a bonding company. Currently, a number of items identified as "substantial completion items" must be addressed prior to the City accepting the building as substantially complete. Once these items have been addressed, the City will begin working with subcontractors on punch list items that need to be repaired.

Fire Chief R. B. Alley hopes the building is complete and ready to occupy by March 2006. "Realistically, we expect contractors on site in early January and look forward to providing even better service and more equally dispersing the City's firefighters," he said.

Costs to complete the project will be paid by the bonding company.

Dedicated Ladder Truck...

The College Station Fire Department's new pride and joy -- a dedicated ladder truck currently under construction in North Carolina -- is expected to arrive in March '06, much to the delight of the City's firefighters. It travels to Pennsylvania from North Carolina for the ladder to be added, then undergoes an inspection in February prior to making the move to Texas.

Upon arrival, it will be housed at Station 2 on Rio Grande. The new \$800,000 truck will provide an elevated reach of 100 feet to assist in firefighting, plus carries a tremendous amount of specialized equipment to be used for ventilation, forcible entry and vehicle extrication.

At first glance, you may not realize the picture below shows the City of College Station's new ladder truck. The chassis is currently under construction in North Carolina, but will soon be heading for Pennsylvania to have the ladder installed.





Wayfinding Project Moving Through Design Stage

Progress on the Wayfinding and Signage Project funded by the City of College Station, City of Bryan and Texas A&M University is taking giant steps forward as it moves through design stages.

Following a November presentation to the Intergovernmental Committee, Corbin Design (Traverse City, Michigan), asked for feedback with regard to (1) reviewing the list of sites to be included in the program, and (2) soliciting comments on design elements presented in the document distributed at the meeting. Based on input received in December,

Corbin will refine plans and provide another opportunity for review and discussion before making the final presentation in 2006.

"Because the two cities share a common border -- one that is irregular -- the two cities appear to visitors as one seamless entity," said Barry Biggar, executive director of the Bryan/College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau. He noted that the wayfinding project is designed to ease travel within the cities and University area. The CVB is coordinating the project for the three entities.

Recommendations address wayfinding needs that fit the College Station and Bryan area, including vehicular wayfinding along and off the controlled access highways appropriate to finding the safest/best route; vehicular and pedestrian wayfinding in appropriate areas of each city; better definition of the area's boundaries and gateways; and reinforcement of each wayfinding partner -- College Station, Bryan, and Texas A&M University.

Pictured below is one of four wayfinding design concepts presented to the Intergovernmental Committee for discussion and consideration. Following an opportunity to receive feedback from area representatives, Corbin Design will further refine the proposals and reintroduce them in early 2006 before making a final presentation.





Speaking of success...

★ Meet **Supervisory Academy's Class of 2005**. This sterling group of 39 City of College Station employees completed the seven week management course with impressive results.

Congratulations to **Mandi Alford**, Terry Boriskie, Lindsay Boyer, P&D; **Clint Anderson**, Brad Ballard, Mikel Reed, Kevin Simmons, Fire; Marie Barringer, Dianne Eberhardt, Luther O'Banion, Gina Parzyck, Fiscal Services; Joy Galvan-Carrillo, Daniel Leschber, Patrick McCarthy, Nathan McCune, Brandy Norris, Kyle Patterson, Police; Cecilia Browder, Stacy Ewing, Ronnie Hayes, Manuel Martinez, Joshua Norton, Troy Rother, Dawn Self, Public Works; Ryan Eubanks, John Graves, Jerry Hejl, Tim Homeyer, Scott Montgomery, Jeffrey Speed, Sam Weido, CSU; Sandra Gallaway, Risk Management; Gina Jamison, Mandi Luedecke, Barbara Steptoe, OTIS; Mark McAuliffe, CMO; Cheletia Johnson, Eli Williamson, PARD; and Glory Meyer, HR.



★ **October sales tax receipts** (*September sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,557,232 for the month of October, representing a 5.42% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier.

Tax revenues continue to grow at or around the projected 5% trend. The Budget Office will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount.

October FY06 Receipts

\$1,557,232
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

October FY05 Receipts

\$1,477,217
\$80,016
5.42%

FY06 YTD Receipts

\$1,557,232
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$1,477,217
\$80,016
5.42%

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue
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www.cstx.gov

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Friday, December 2

Christmas in the Park,
Lighting Ceremony, 6 pm

December 6-10

NLC Conference,
Charlotte, NC

December 12-14

Attorney General Open
Meetings Conference, Austin

Wednesday, December 14

Joint Meeting, City Council &
Planning & Zoning Commis-
sion, 4 - 6 pm

Thursday, December 15

City Council Workshop, 2 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Saturday, December 17

Snow at Central Park, 6 pm

Monday, December 19

Intergovernmental Committee,
Noon, College Station City Hall
Administrative Conference
Room

December 23, 26 & Jan. 2

Holiday Closings for City of
College Station

Thursday, January 12

City Council Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm



Shining moments...

★ Letters complimenting CSU's **Greg Wall**: "Thank you for giving such a great tour of your treatment plant to our students. Such trips do so much for their understanding of what we discuss in class. I always hear from them that seeing the 'real world' applications make the material more interesting and easier to learn. As an environmental engineer who is always trying to recruit students into the field, I was particularly glad to hear you talk about the increasing importance of water and the growing value of people who know about water. Thank you for your time and enthusiasm." --**Bill Batchelor**, TAMU Civil Engineering Department

"I am a student from Dr. Batchelor's CVEN311 Class (Environmental Engineering). I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving up some time to show my classmates and me around the wastewater treatment plant. Have a great Thanksgiving and keep those bugs happy." --**Samuel A. Yochmowitz**, Class of '06

★ Letter recognizing efforts of **Gary Marske** and his Parks crew regarding a baseball tournament at Southwood Athletic Park: "I just wanted to express my appreciation to the Parks Department for having Field 6 at Southwood so beautifully laid out and prepared for my round-robin. Both managers, one from Cy-Fair and the other from Katy, were very impressed with such a great facility we have to play on. They were very jealous. I have played on Harris County fields, as well as numerous other city and county fields, for some time (I have coached tournament ball for 14 years), and we have here the best fields anywhere and the best parks department." -- **Steve Oberhellman**

★ Letter recognizing **Trey Fletcher**, Planning and Development Services: "Thanks so much for the great presentation last night. I do appreciate you taking time from your evening to make that presentation. It was very informative and helpful to the committee." -- **Mike Ball**, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations, College Station ISD.

★ Letters of appreciation for **Peggy Calliham's** Citizens University Reunion: "Just wanted you to know that I thought the Reunion went great! I really enjoyed seeing members of my group and meeting new folks, too. It was good to meet the new police and fire chiefs as well. All of the speakers were very informative and I liked getting the updates on the city. In general, I was just glad I was there and wanted you to know. Thanks for putting the whole thing together." -- **Ginny Reese**

"What a great job! Peggy, last night was perfect. Good attendance, good program, good food, good fellowship... The first annual CU reunion was an A+. Congratulations on a job well done." -- **Ben White**

"A lovely evening you spearheaded for all Graduates. Delicious food, delightful decorations, interesting information from speakers, nice programs, pleasant table mates and a center piece in my hand! I hope to be there for the next Reunion!" -- **Helen Cluck**

